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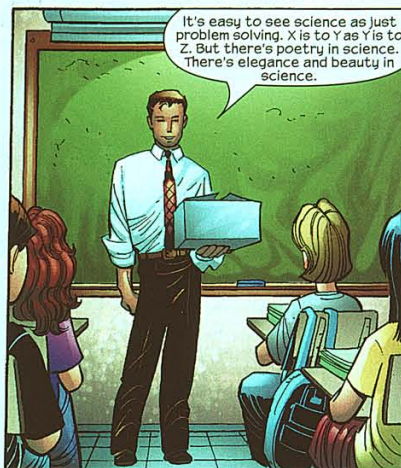


邪 JAGUN 眼
FIGHTERS

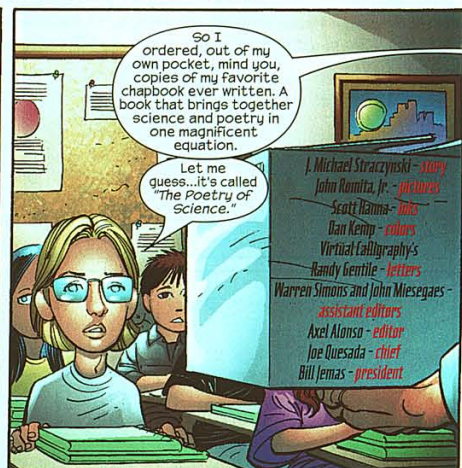
BAN
DAI

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It's easy to see science as just problem solving. X is to Y as Y is to Z. But there's poetry in science. There's elegance and beauty in science.



So I ordered, out of my own pocket, mind you, copies of my favorite chapbook ever written. A book that brings together science and poetry in one magnificent equation.

Let me guess...it's called "The Poetry of Science."

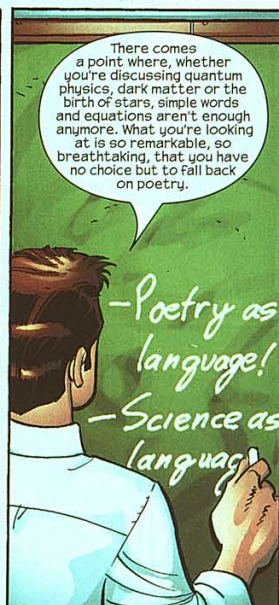
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John Romita, Jr. - pictures
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Ian Kemp - colors
Virtual Calligraphy's
Randy Gentile - letters
Warren Simons and John Miesegaes - assistant editors
Axel Alonso - editor
Joe Quesada - chief
Bill Jemas - president



Very funny. Who'd give a book a lame name like that?

It's called "Poetry and Science."

And just for that, Joey, you get the honor of opening the box and handing out the copies.



There comes a point where, whether you're discussing quantum physics, dark matter or the birth of stars, simple words and equations aren't enough anymore. What you're looking at is so remarkable, so breathtaking, that you have no choice but to fall back on poetry.

-Poetry as language!
-Science as language!



Er, Mr. Parker--

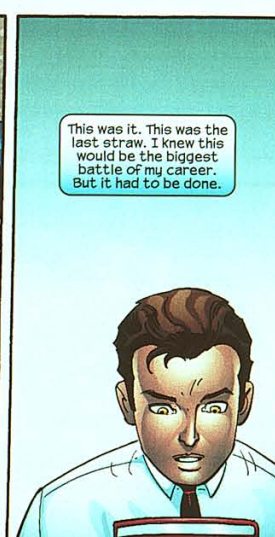
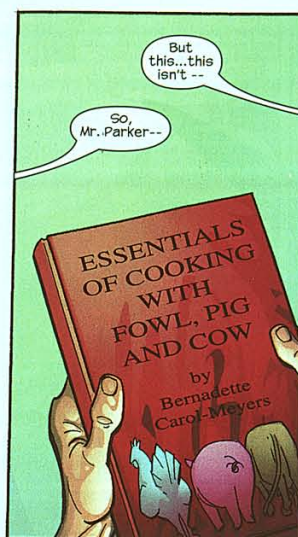
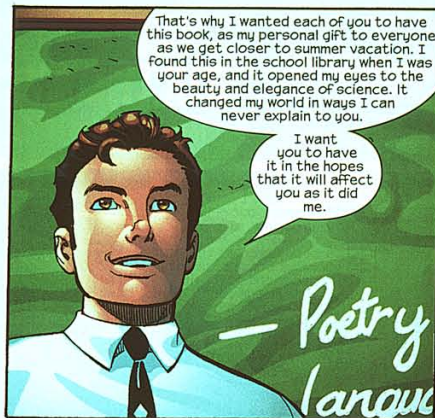
I know what you're thinking. How can poetry, the language of the heart, ever intersect with science, the language of the mind?

No, actually, I--

Good question.

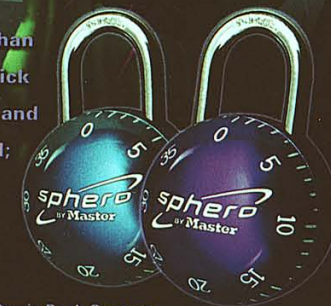
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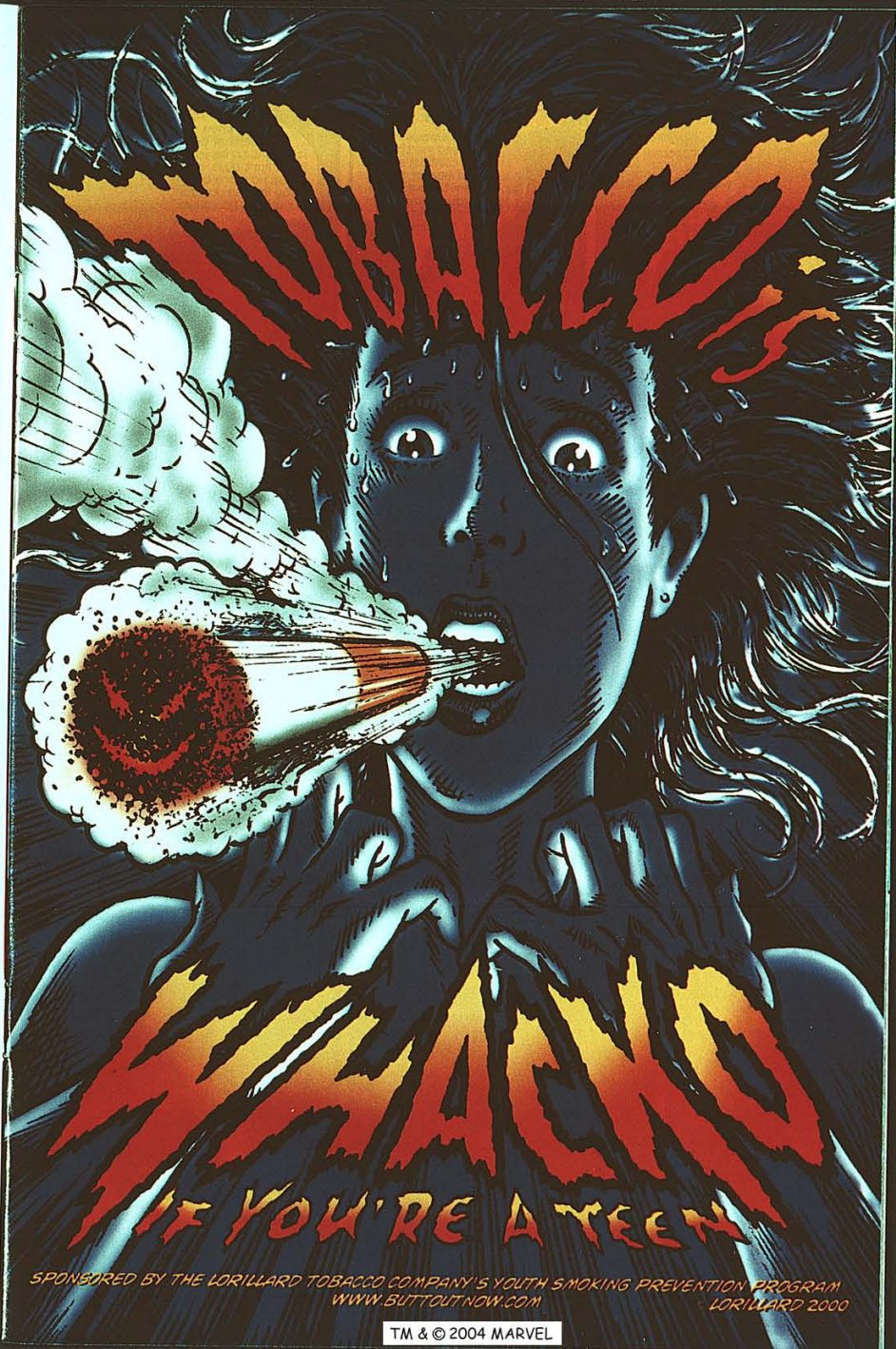
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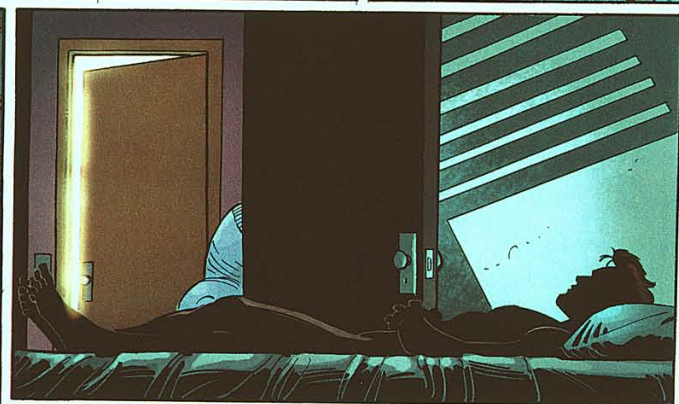


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I think I'm a hero, but am I really just as petty as Julie? At the end of the day, what am I?



And why the heck is there always one of you guys around when I start asking questions like this?

Peter?



You okay?

Yeah...fine. Just watching the lightning. I used to love watching storms when I was a kid, even though they scared me.

I'd count the seconds between the flash and the thunder and figure out how far away it was. And I'd watch the light to figure out what kind of lightning it was.



Show me.



Bolt lightning.

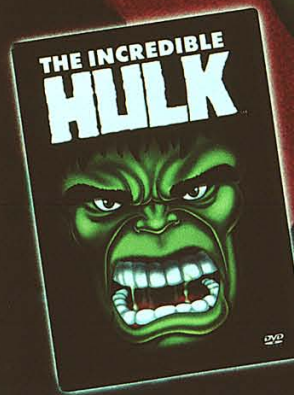


Sheet lightning.



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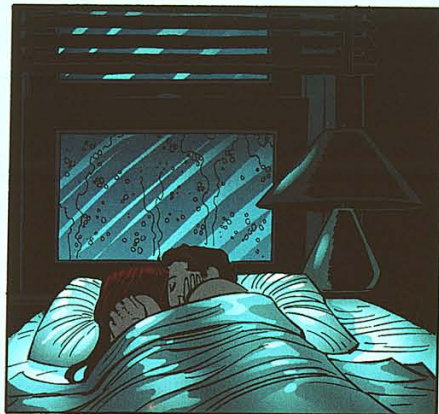
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I can hear the sirens even before I'm out the window.

I don't know what's going on, but it's big, that's for sure.

Awfully big.

...holy....

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On second thought,
holy has nothing to
do with this.



They're all over me in an instant. Fists in every direction. Can't see. Just got to keep swinging, find an opening.

Somewhere.



Webbing's no good... they just tear right through...can't take much more of this...



Can't see to web up...they're pulling me down...what the hell are these things?

Doesn't matter. Can't let it matter. If I'm going down--



--I'm taking them with me!



Get off me... get OFF me...

GET OFF ME!



What --?



Okay. So. We gonna hold hands, dance, or fight?
And just so ya know, the answer is number three if ya wanna live.

Ben...?

Ben!

Yeah, yeah, ya can get my autograph later. Now, whaddaya say?



LET'S KICK SOME TRANSDIMENSIONAL BUTT!

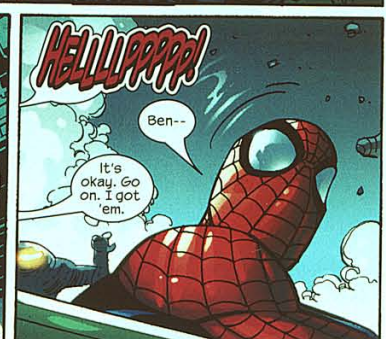


He's got my back. I've got his.



We can't lose.

WELCOME TO THE CITY, BOYS! LET ME SHOW YOU HOW WE SAY HI IN THE BRONX!





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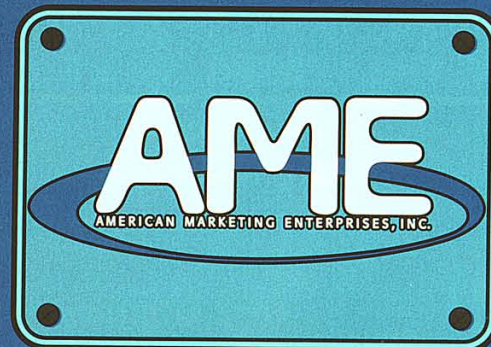
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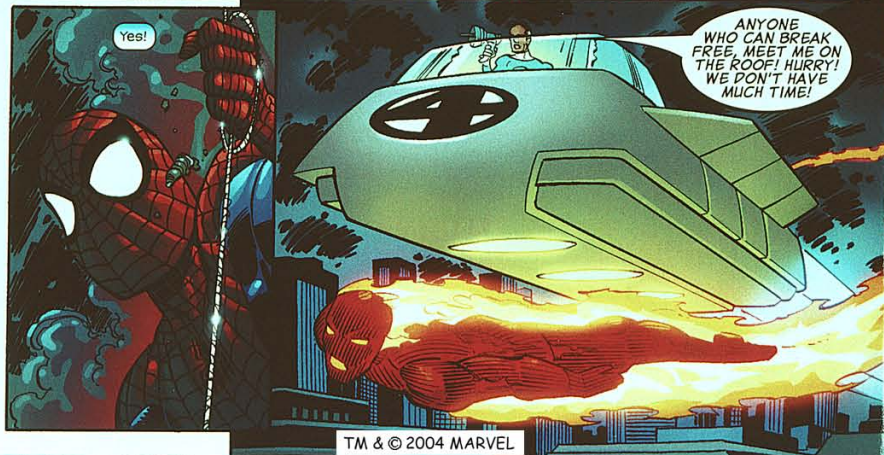
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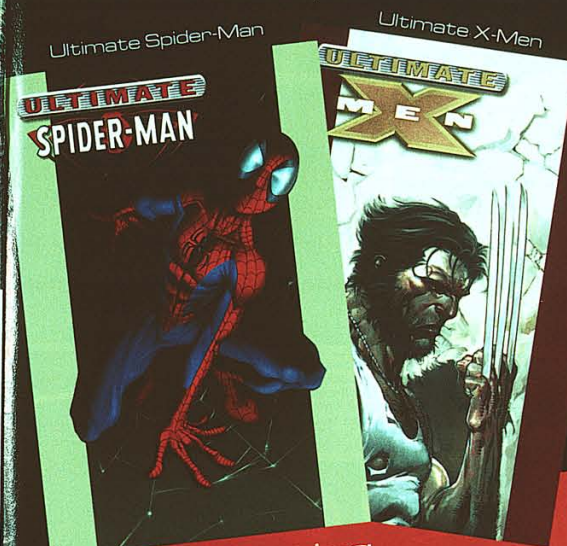
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I need you all to listen very carefully.



I don't know how the Mindless Ones managed to open that vortex and cross the border into our dimension, but I think I've figured out how to close it again.

This will funnel everyone's power through every vibrational plane until it finds the right one, the one that matches the Faltine Dimension, where they come from.



Once that happens, we overload it and--assuming the equipment doesn't explode--cause the vortex to collapse. When that happens, it will create a kind of vibratory echo that will pull back everyone who came through it, wherever he might have gotten to.

Sounds reasonable. Let's do it.

I have a concern.

Even in hallowed Asgard, we have heard whispers of such creatures. Just as we have heard that the one called Doctor Strange stands between them and the mortal world. Should we not wait upon his arrival before undertaking anything so grave?

I agree.

I mean...in theory, it all sounds great. But face it, there's science and there's magic and what works on one doesn't always work on the other.

Like when you're trying to jump-start somebody's car, and you look at the cables and you can't remember if it's positive to positive or negative to negative, and if you get it wrong there's just this mess where the other person's battery was, and...

Does anybody else want to talk now?



I understand your concern, Thor. And your metaphor, Spider-Man.

Well, mostly.

But I'm afraid we don't have the luxury of time. By my calculations, if we don't move, within the hour there will be tens of thousands of deadly creatures swarming through the New York streets on a path of utter destruction.

We're getting a new cab company?



We have to take the chance. Ready?

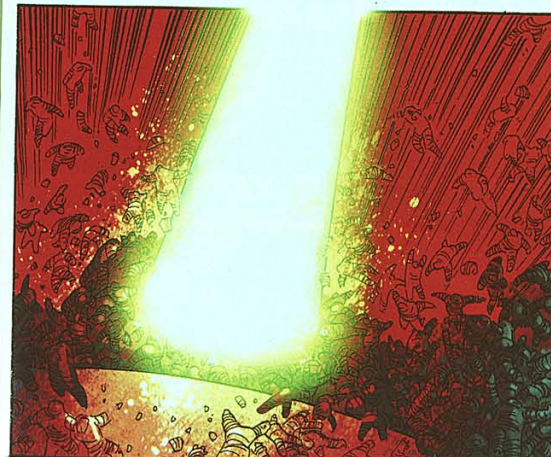
I'm good to go.

Thor stands ready.

Say the word.



Here we go.



All right...stand by...stand by...

NOW!





That's it... sensors confirm the vortex is pulling everything back into itself...keep going, give it everything you've got--



Just a little more! Hold on!



That's it! Hang on --

"By the vapors of the Vishanti! NO!"



What the--

Do you not realize what you have done?

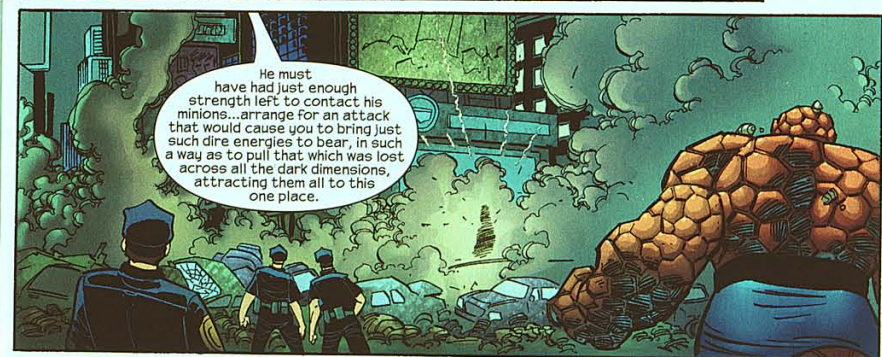


Yeah, saving the town while you were off snoozing somewhere--

No...you have been tricked. I came as soon as I saw... It doesn't matter. It is too late.

What's too late?

I had defeated my most terrible foe. Had sent his essence into a dozen different dimensions, diffusing his energy so that it would be impossible for him to reconstitute himself.



He must have had just enough strength left to contact his minions...arrange for an attack that would cause you to bring just such dire energies to bear, in such a way as to pull that which was lost across all the dark dimensions, attracting them all to this one place.



And in so doing, bring his essence from its scattered domains so that they might reunite and become one.
The nightmare begins again.

"Once more,
Mephisto returns!"

To be
continued...

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